

Message Text

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S/S - MR. ORTIZ

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO USMISSION EC BRUSSELS

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E.O11652: GDS

TAGS: EEC, FT

SUBJECT: VISIT OF EC COMMISSION PRESIDENT ORTOLI - TRADE
ISSUES AT FEBRUARY 23 LUNCH

1. AT THE ACTING SECRETARY'S LUNCH FEBRUARY 23 FOR EC
PRESIDENT ORTOLI, ATTENDED BY STR DENT AND BILL SEIDMAN,
PRESIDENT ORTOLI EXPRESSED DEEP CONCERN OVER PROTECTION-
IST PRESSURES IN THE US, AND URGED THAT THE US RE-
SIST ALL FORMS OF TRADE RESTRICTIVE ACTIONS. IN ORTOLI'S
VIEW, IT SHOULD BE EASIER TO RESIST THESE PRESSURES AS
RECOVERY FROM THE RECESSION BUILDS, BUT 1976 WILL BE A
DANGEROUS YEAR FOR TRADE POLICY. MOREOVER, IT IS
DIFFICULT FOR EUROPEANS TO UNDERSTAND PROTECTIONIST
ACTIONS BY THE US WHILE WE MAINTAIN A LARGE TRADE SUR-
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PLUS PARTICULARLY WITH EUROPE. FINALLY, HE IS CON-

CERNED THAT TRADE MEASURES BY THE US WILL RESULT
IN A TRADE WAR AND MAKE IT HARDER FOR OTHER COUNTRIES
WITH LESS FAVORABLE TRADE BALANCES TO RESIST THEIR OWN
DOMESTIC PRESSURES.

2. IN RESPONSE, WE NOTED THAT THE US HAS BY AND LARGE
AVOIDED SIGNIFICANT TRADE RESTRICTIVE ACTIONS, BUT IN
CASES DECIDED BY THE INTERNATIONAL TRADE COMMISSION, SUCH

AS SPECIALTY STEEL AND SHOES, WE RISK A CONGRESSIONAL
OVERRIDE IF OUR ACTIONS ARE NOT BASED ON A SOUND
ASSESSMENT OF DOMESTIC AS WELL AS INTERNATIONAL CONSID-
ERATIONS.

3. ON OTHER ISSUES, INCLUDING PREPARATIONS FOR THE GATT
MULTILATERAL TRADE NEGOTIATIONS, US-EC POLITICAL CONSUL-
TATIONS, AND OUR JOINT RELATIONSHIP WITH DEVELOPING
COUNTRIES, PRESIDENT ORTOLI WAS HIGHLY POSITIVE ABOUT
THE GOOD STATE OF RELATIONS BETWEEN US. KISSINGER

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